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* " MA 'S OPERATION" *
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* Property of Johnnie Speer. *
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MA'S OPERATION

CAST

MA TITCHNER COMEDY OLD WOMAN

PA TITCHNER COMEDY OLD MAN

DOCTOR TEETERS HEAVY

DON HIGHLY JUVENILE LIGHT COMEDY

FIZZEL DIZZEL ECCENTRIC

PROPS

Doctor's desk

Sledge Hammer

Telephone

Beal

Box with papers in it

Paper and pencil on desk

Ladies silk hose

Ear trumpet.

SETTING

(A doctor's office. C. D, and D. R. and L.)

MA'S OPERATION

KITTY
(IS WORKING AT HER DESK. DR. TEETERS ENTERS AND KISSES HER ON THE BACK OF THE NECK) Oh, Don, is that you!

TEETERS
No, it's me.

KITTY
(TURNING AROUND) Well, of all the nerve! I ought to choke you, and if Don saw you do that he'd do it for me.

TEETERS
Oh no he wouldn't. Don knows that I'm going to put him on his feet in this profession.

KITTY
Yes, you'll put him on his feet all right. He'll have to be on his feet because pretty soon he won't have any soles on his shoes.

TEETERS
I suppose you think I ought to give Don more of a chance than I do. Why the young punk has only been out of medical school two years. I am a doctor with a standard reputation and I can't afford to let Don handle my expensive patients. But, come, Kitty, let's not quarrell. I'm sorry I did that. You've been so sweet to me the last few days that I thought you---

KITTY
You thought that I wanted you to spit on the back of my neck. Thanks, Doctor Teeters, I can wash my own neck. And talking about your expensive patients reminds me that your rent isn't paid yet, and unless there is an epidemic you won't be able to keep open much longer.

TEETERS
Kitty, you're sarcastic. I'm doing as well as anybody in the building. Your own father isn't doing so well in his business, you know.

KITTY
Leave my Pa out of it. (PA TITCHNER ENTERS)

PA
You can't do it I'm in now. Howdy, Doctor Teeters.

KITTY
Pa, why aren't you over to your office attending to business?

PA
Aint none to tend to honey. Hey, Doc send Kitty out I want to talk to you.

KITTY
I'll leave without being sent. (EXITS L. U.)

TEETERS
What's on your mind, Lem?

PA
Well, you see it's this way, Doc. My wife just got left a nice little sum of money by her folks.. She'

s got fifteen hundredd in

cash, and some property on Circle Drive.

TEETERS

You're pretty well fixed, aren't you?

PA

I'm ina hell of a fix. Listen, I've borrowed her fifteen thousand dollars and invested in Mining Stocks.

TEETERS

Does she know it?

PA

I'm still alive, aint I?

TEETERS

Do you mean she'd be angry with you?

PA

I don't know ~~whether~~ she would or not, but she might say some awful insulting things. You see I thought that there was no possible chance for the stock to fall and so in a fit of excitement I drew the money out of the bank, and invested the whole business. I might make a barrell of money, but if I should lose ma's money, I don't know what I'd do.

TEETERS

Why tell me? I am sure there is nothing I can do.

PA

Yes there is. Ma's got intinto her head that there's something the matter with her, and she's coming to see you. She thinks now that she's got a little money she ought to be fashionable and have an operation.

TEETERS

(LAUGHS) I get cases like that every day.

PA

But hang it man, how much does one of them operations cost?

TEETERS

Well, now I could give your wife a wonderful operation for ten thousand dollars.

PA

For ten thousand dollars you ought to! You blamed fool, I aint got ten thousand dollars to pay out right now, and if she comes up here to you, I want you to say something to put her off at least until I can get her money back in the bank.

TEETERS

All right, Dem..I get you.

PA

Good. You see, Doc, ma puts an awful lot of faith in you,

TEETERS

Maybe she would like to have me for a son-in-law, eh? Lem, since your daughter has been working in my office I have fallen madly in love with her. Now if you would use your influence---

PA

Just as well try to influence a Missouri Mule to walk upside down on his hind legs over a rut in the road.

TEETERS

At least you could cast a disapproving glance at her attentions to Don Highway, my Junior Partner.

PA

Well, Don aint a bad kind, and he'll make a good doctor someday.

TEETERS

He won't as long as he is my partner. I hate him, and I do everything to spoil his chances, and keep him down.

PA

That aint right.

TEETERS

It isn't right to borrow your wife's money and invest in wild cat mining stock either.

DON

(ENTERS WITH KITTY CARRYING A SMALL BASKET OF PAPERS) Now hold on tight, Kitty.

TEETERS

Don, I didn't know you were in the other room.

DON

I've been in there for over an hour. Here, Kitty, set it right down there. (THEY SET BASKET DOWN)

TEETERS

Does it take two of you to carry that little filing basket?

KITTY

(GIVES HIM THE LAUGH) What do you care. Come on, Don. (THEY EXIT L)

TEETERS

Damn him! Listen here, Lem, unless you make Kitty become my wife --well I know you little secret--remember?

PA

Lardy! You wouldn't tell my w ife would you?

TEETERS

Exactly! I'll give your wife an operation that will cost her fifteen thousand! Then what will you do ~~of~~ for money?

PA

Now listen here, Teeters, my daughter can marry who she wants to.

TEETERS

All right, here comes your wife now, and she's going to have that operation.

MA

(ENTERS) Oh doctor here you are. I was so afraid I wouldn't find you. Pa, what are you doing over here. Why aint you in your own office?

Oh I just came over to see the Doc for a little visit.

MA

Well, go on over across the hall where you belong. I've got to talk with the doctor and you're not in the conversation.. Doctor, I think I need an operation. They seem to be in style and---

TEETERS

Why of course, you look sick, its' your liver, your heart, perhaps an appendix. Come into my private office. I'll bet you'll have to operated on. I'll give you the very latest in operations. (ISHERS HER IN TO ROOM L.) Think it over, Lem. Better get Kitty to marry me.

PA

Oh go to the devil! Oh Lord! If ma finds out what I've done, and I lose that money, I'll need more than an operation to bring me to.

***** NUMBER ONE *****

KITTY

(ENTERS WITH DON) Oh, Don, I feel so miserable.

DON

So do I. Kitty, let's share our misery together. Let's get married.

KITTY

But, Don, don't you realize that if you married me, Teeters would disolver your partnership and you never would become a famous doctor.

DON

Perhaps it would be better if he did. It's a cinch I'm not getting a chance with him. All I get is a case of the measles and a sore throat every once in a while. What I want to do is operate on somebody and perform and wonderful cure. But alas, Kitty, there is something else I would like to make you my wife. Will you?

KITTY

Yes, Don, I will!

DON

Kitty! (TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS AND KISSES HER)

MA

(ENTERS D. L.) Kitty, leave that tom cat alone!

DON

Mrs. Titchner why do you disapprove of me? If I only had a chance--

MA

If you had a chance! Law sakes you never will know nothing. Kitty, if you want to get married, marry somebody that knows something like the doctor. (BEGINS TO POUT) Looks to me like you would obey your mohnther. I aint going to be with you long.

KITTY

Why, mother, what do you mean?

MA

Oh, child, I've got to have everything from my indigestion to my

indigestion to my diaphragm out out. Doctor Teeters is going to give me a wonderful operations

DON

But, operations are dangerous, Mrs. Titcher.

MA

Also very fashionable. Besides it's my business if I want to be killed--not yours. I expect all of ye would like to see me under the sod. I'm all unstrung today any way. I'm going over to your pa's office now and beat his brains out.

KITTY

Why, mother?

MA

Oh the old pistol necked crocodile's messed up with some woman. For the past three nights your pa's been talking in his sleep.

DON

Ah I have a cure for that.

MA

Well, if you ever cure my husband of talking in his sleep, I'll choke your neck off. That's the only way I can find out what he's doing.

KITTY

Well, what did pa say in his sleep Ma?

MA

Oh, the old billy goat woke me up about four o'clock this morning, kicked me in the ribs, and began saying--"Eugenia Mine! Eugenia!" I'm going to find out who this Eugenia is and the Lord Pity her.

KITTY

Did Pa say anything else?

MA

No, because by the time he got that out, I let him have---with the alarm clock, and he's got four thirty stamped on the back of his neck for the rest of his life.

TEETERS

(ENTERS) Oh haven't you gone yet, Mrs. Titcher.

MA

No not yet. I just stepped out of your office and found these two in each other's arms. You must keep them better employed---or they'll be getting into trouble. Haven't you got something for them to do?

KITTY

Well, it won't do any good. I'm going to lunch.

DON

I've got to eat too.

MA

Hump! Got any appetite awful sudden, didn't you? Well, Kitty, you come and go with me; I'll take you to lunch. They don't allow dogs in there, so you'll have to stay out. (GIVES DONA DIRTY LOOK AND DRAGS KITTY OFF R. U.)

Don, I want to talk to you straight. You don't think I'm treating you fair, do you?

DON

Well, I think I ought to have a chance at something half way serious. I've practised medical science for almost two years

TEETERS

Don, I'm going to give you a chance---

DON

Who is it?

TEETERS

Kitty's mother. She's got the idea that she ought to have an operation to be in society. I've got a reason in seeing that she has one. I've told her that she has four or five ailments and it will necessitate a very delicate operation. There's nothing in the world the matter with her.

DON

Then how can you operate?

TEETERS

Oh, just take her appendix out, that's all. This will be a chance for you to cultivate your nerve and steady your hand. I'll be there to see that you do things right..

DON

Gee, I sure want the chance. Well, thanks, Teeters---maybe you're not so bad after all. I'm going to lunch. (EXITS R. U.)

TEETERS

The little fool! He doesn't know what my purpose is.

PA

(LOOKS IN R. U.) Ssst! My old lady gone?

TEETERS

Yes, she and Kitty went out to lunch. Well, lem, I'm going to give you wife an operation---you haven't got much time to make your daughter marry me---better get busy.

PA

Well, now Teeters---Kitty won't marry you---and listen have a heart--you can give my old lady ten operations after I get that money back on that oil deal---

TEETERS

Nothin' doing! I want your daughter.

MA

(ENTERS WILDLY WAVING A LETTER) Oh where is he? Where is he? There you are, you old diabolitical hyposticator!

PA

What's the matter, mama?

MA

Matter enough. Matter enough! I just went home and the mail man

left this in the box. Oh you---you-- Listen to this letter. 7
(READS) "Dear Mrs. Titchner, I am sending you this letter that
you might be warned of your husband's unfaithful character. He is
carryong on a love affair with a notorious woman. You should keep
your eyes open. Signed---annonymous!"

PA
Who the heck's this guy--annonymous?

MA
Anonymous--that means no one signs it.

PA
Well, then how the devil did they now.

MA
Oh you old ignoramous I mean whoever wrote this letter won't sign
their name to it. But that's evidence enough. Now, confess who is
the woman?

PA
Ohooooo Now, Ma, you surely don't think I got a woman, do you?

MA
Oh no no! After reading that letter, I wouldn't think anything like
that at all. Answer me. Who is she? (SHAKES HIM)

PA
I don't know!

MA
You don't know?

PA
I don't know her name.

MA
Ah ha! You admit you've been mixed up with one, but you don't know
her name.

PA
No I---I mean---there aint any, and I don't know what it's all about.

TEETERS
There's no use asking him, Mrs. Titchner. He might be innocent but
I doubt it.

MA
Innocent! That old gorilla hasn't been innocent since the second
day after he was born.

PA
Why, ma, you don't mean that you doubt my moral pulchitude?

MA
Moral pulchirtude! My Lord, Lem, you aint got that, have you?

PA
Yes, don't you know what it is?

MA
Uh huh--the doctor's going to cut mine out!

PA

Ma, I'm surprised, to think that you would deliberately believe a letter like that about me. To think that you would accuse me of loving some other woman. (CRIES) Oh it hurts me!

MA

(SYMPATHIZES) Oh, Pa, I didn't exactly accuse you of it, but---

PA

Oh don't touch me, cruel woman. You've doubted me---me, your lawful-- I mean lawful husband.

TEETERS

This is too sad for me. (EXITS L.)

MA

(PATTING HIM ON THE BACK) Now, pa, don't cry. You might be innocent. It hurt me to think that you'd trifle. I've always given you everything you wanted. Haven't I always loved you? Didn't I take care of you when you got that big gash in your head?

PA

Yes, and didn't you put that big gash in my head with a flat iron?

MA

Well, now that's all cut and dried.

PA

Yeah, it was all cut and bleedin'!

MA

Pa, do you actually swear that there is no other woman but me?

PA

I dome, I swear.

MA

You swear that there's no one like me.

PA

Yes, there's no one like you ma---no one---Thank god!

MA

What! Oh, Lem, you've touched my heart! Lem, dear, I forgive you and I'm sorry I ever doubted your word. Please forgive me too.

PA

All right this time, I will, but never let it happen again. The idea! That you would think your good clean sanitary husband would make love to another woman. Why I aint spoken to another woman for twenty years. I wouldn't look at another woman. No sir. I have nothing to do with women. (TURNS BACK AND WALKS UP C. SHOWING A LADIES SILE STOCKING STICKING OUT OF HIS HIP POCKET)

MA

Ah ha!

PA

Ah he! (EXITS.)

MA
Oh , I'm gonna kill that ape, and then divorce him. (FUNNY EXIT)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

DON
(ENTERS WITH KITTY) Kitty, at last I get a chance at an operation.
I'm going to operate on your mother.

KITTY
Does mother know it?

DON
No, I'm going to tell her just as soon as I see her.

MA
(ENTERS WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER) Where's that lit- wienie I want to
wrap him up in a bun.

KITTY
Mother, what are you doing with that sledge hammer?

MA
Nothing! I'm saving it for your pa.

KITTY
Now mother, calm yourself, we've got some good news for you.

MA
Good news? Did your pa fall out of a window and break his neck?

KITTY
No, Don has finally got a chance to prove what he is made of. He's
going to really use the knife.

MA
He ought to use it for a wash rag and wash his neck. What's he
going to do?

DON
I'm going to operate on you.

MA
Not if I know it you aren't.

KITTY
Why, Mother, we thought you'd betickled.

DON
You see I haven't operated on very many people. Just a few minor
operations, but I know all about it. I don't think there is much
chance of me killing you.

MA
What!

KITTY
You know he's got to start some time, mother, and you ought to see
him handle cases.

DON

DON
Yeah, cases of home brew--

MA
What?

DON
I mean cases at home too. I'm so good I don't even have to have an office. Why I could cut you open right on Grand Avenue.

MA
Oh!

DON
Here comes a patient now, just watch me handle her---

FIZZLE DIZZLE
(ENTERS WEARS BLACK GLASS AND EAR TRUMPET) Eh what is it?

DON
Ah the woman needs help she is deaf. I see. Come right in my good madam, now what can I do for you?

FIZZLE DIZZLE
Hey? You say I bore you?

DON
No I say won't you sit down?

FIZZLE
Pull what down?

DON
Say, you can't hear, can you?

FIZZLE
Canned bear? Where is it?

DON
NO NO Here be seated. (SETS HER IN CHAIR)

FIZZLE
Well go on and beat it.

DON
What's your name?

FIZZLE
No I'm not lame.

DON
Your name? Name.

FIZZLE
Oh---My name is Mrs. Fizzel Dizzel.

MA
She don't look like she's going to fizzel very long.

DON

I guess I'd better give her some medicine. ~~HOW~~ What's wrong with your ears?

FIZZEL

Oh they're all right; they just stick out of my head too far, that's all. (PULLS GLASSES DOWN) Where am I?

DON

You are under my care? Can't you see well?

FIZZEL

Nope not since I've had myglass eyes---can't see a thing. (LOOKS REAL HARD AT MA) Hey, that's funny looking wall paper you've got.

DON

Wall paper!

FIZZEL

Yes, what is that design---a Buzzard?

MA

Oh that old walrus is looking right at me. (GETS UP AND MOVES)

FIZZEL

I don't see it no more.

DON

I'll give this old woman and subscription and get her out of here. (WRITES A PRESCRIPTION) Here's a prescription. Get it filled. That's the best thing I can think of.

FIZZEL

Hey? What's this for? I don't like to read.

DON

That's a prescription.

FIZZEL

Hey?

DON

You get that filled. You owe me five dollars. (YELLS AT HER)

FIZZEL

Five dollars! What for?

DON

For services rendered. Isn't that what you came in here for?

FIZZEL

I should say not.

DON

Well, then what are you doing here?

FIZZEL

Why I thought this was a drug store and I just came in here to get any ice cream sody. (DON CHASES HER OFF)

NUMBER THREE

PA

(SNEAKS ON) Oh, Lord, I've got to keep out of the way of my old lady or she'll kill me. I wonder who the Sam Hill wrote that note to her? (NOISE OFF L.) Someone's coming! I've got to hide! (LOOKS AROUND AND FINALLY GETS BEHIND DESK)

TEETERS

(ENTERS L. 1 AND GOES TO TELEPHONE) (DOES NOT SEE PA) Give me 606 please! Hello. Bloodgood Hospital? Doctor Teeters speaking. I want to be connected on private line with Doctor Swienard! Hello, Swienard. Your old friend, Teeters, on the line. Yeah. Listen, I've got a case to take out to your hospital. No, it's a crazy old lady with some valuable real estate on Circle Drive. It's a fake operation---she thinks she needs one, and I'm going to satisfy her. Of course it's going to cost her plenty. Yes, reserve a room. But I want you to help me. Well, listen--this is on a private line now isn't it---no danger of anyone overhearing this conversation! I'm in love with the old lady's daughter, and I'm going to make her marry me. Well, this is my idea. I'm letting my assistant doctor perform the operation---I'm going to make things so he'll do it wrong, and nearly kill the old lady. Just when she's at the point of death, I'll threaten the daughter to either marry me or else I won't save her mother. See? All right, thanks, doc, that's all. (HANGS UP) I hope no one heard that.

PA

(COMING FROM BEHIND DESK) Well, you got another hope coming. You low down pot hound! I believe you'd murder somebody to get what you wanted.

TEETERS

Well, what are you going to do about it?

PA

Plenty! My wife don't get no operation.

TEETERS

(LAUGHS) I suppose you could stop her. She'd only laugh and tell me to go ahead. Listen here, Lem Bitchner, I told you that I was going to have your daughter, and I am, no matter what I have to do to get her. What! with what your wife knows on you, you couldn't do anything with her.

MA

(OFF STAGE) Oh never mind, I'll find him.

PA

Oh lord here she comes. She'll kill me with that sledge hammer.

MA

(ENTERS) Oh there you are!

PA

Now, Ma, control yourself!

MA

Control myself! You old grass hopper, I'm running in high, and you'd better watch out. Come on, Lem, I'm going to send you to the hospital (STARTS AT HIM WITH SLEDGE HAMMER)

KITTY

(ENTERS WITH DON) Sotp, mother, we've got some news for you.

MA

What is it?

KITTY

Don and I done it

MA

Done what?

KITTY

Got married!

MA

What! Kitty, you'll get a divorce right now---at once.

KITTY

I won't!

MA

You will. Doctor Teeters is the man you're going to marry.

PA

No sir! Our daughter aint going to marry no skunk like him. Ma, he's a crook, and he was going to try and kill you.

MA

What, how do you know?

PA

I heard him talking over the phone and---

TEETERS

(TAKING HIM BY THE THROAT) Damn you be quiet!

MA

(THREATENING TEETERS WITH THE SLEDGE HAMMER) Lay off him! He's my husband. Don't you hit him, that's what I ma rried him for.

PA

Ma, he said he was going to fix thing so that when Don operated on you, he'd sdo something wrong, and almost kill you, then if Kitty didn't marry him, he would let you die.

TEETERS

Well, old man, now I'll fix you. Mrs. Titchner, ask your husband where the fifteen thousand dollars your folks left you is.

MA

Why it's in the bank of course.

TEETERS

No it isn't. He stole it and invested in wild cat mining stock.

MA

Lem!

MA

(SHAKING) Yes, mama!

MA

Did you?

PA

Well, now, ma---

MA

Answer me, or I'll slap you on the eye-brow with this sledge hammer.

PA

Well, if I told you the truth, you'd slap me anyway.

MA

Then you did take it.

PA

Yes, mama.

TEETERS

Now, Kitty, I'm firing you and Don, and you two little fools with starve to death---so will you, Mrs. Titchner, because if your husband should make any money he'd give it to some other woman.

PA

That's a lie! There aint no other woman.

TEETERS

Well, I hope the mine you invested in is a failure. (PHONE RINGS) Hello! Huh? Who? Lem Titchner. He's in my office yes.

PA

Somebody wants me on the phone. (TAKES PHONE) Hello! Huh? No. Yeah! (THROWS PHONE IN AIR) Hot o' mighty!

MA

Lem, what is it?

PA

Eugenia Mine went up to the clouds! I've made a million! A million cold!

MA

Eugenia Mine! Lem, is that the name of the mine you invested in?

PA

Yes, darling.

MA

Oh, Lem! (BEGINS CRYING) Forgive me! Forgive me!

PA

For what, Ma?

MA

I heard you talking in your sleep and you kept saying "Eugenia Mine Eugenia Mine." I thought you were talking about a woman all the time. Oh you dear sweet man. (HAS SLEDGE HAMMER AND THROWS ARMS AROUND HIM HITTING HIM IN BACK WITH HAMMER)

PA

Hey. wait a minute. Let's disarm. (TAKES HAMMER) Now, darling,

you see there was no woman.

MA

But wait a minute, waht about this letter signed annonymous.

PA

Let's see that. (TAKES IT AND LOOKS AT THE ENVELOPE) Ma, look at this address. This says Mrs. D. T. Titchner 409 N. Market. We live at 409 S. Market. The postman has just given us the wrong letter. I sure pity the poor fellow that lives on N. Market

MA DON

Now I guess you won't be so smart will you, Mr. Smart Alec! (TO DOC)

TEETERS

You little fool, I'll fire you.

DON

You can't.

TEETERS

Why not?

DON

I quit two hours ago.

TEETERS

(DOCOTJ EXITS ANGRY)

PA

Well, ma, everything is settled?

MA

Yes---no---what about them stockings I found in your hip pocket---what abtut them stockings.

PA

Kitty gave me those to take to the store to have the runs in 'em mended.

KITTY

So I did.

MA

(HUGS HIM) Oh, Pa, I knew you were innocent all the time.

PA

Ma, if the lord loved a liar, he'd take you to heaven on high!

***** F I N A L E *****